

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-31 were previously pending.

Claims 1, 2, 8, and 22 have been amended, claims 5,7, 11-21, 23, and 27-31 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and no new claims added. Therefore, claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 22, and 24-26 are pending and are submitted for reconsideration.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the office action, claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-26, and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT Pub. No. WO 99/62007 (hereafter "Fayyad") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,430,344 (hereafter "Kothuri") and further in view of examiner's official notice. Applicants note that these rejections are now moot in view of present amendments to the independent claims.

Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 7 (indicated as allowable) as well as intermediate claim 5. Independent claim 8 has been amended to include the features of claim 15 (indicated as allowable) as well as intermediate claims 12 and 13. Independent claim 22 has been amended to include the features of claim 27 which is indicated as being allowable. Therefore, all the pending independent claims are now in condition for allowance in accordance with the indications in the office action.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The dependent claims are deemed to be patentable at least based on their dependence from allowable independent claims. In addition, they recite patentable subject matter when considered as a whole.

Type of Response: Amendment
Application Number: 09/886,771
Attorney Docket Number: 163193.01
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CONCLUSION

Accordingly, applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and an indication of the same is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

If this Amendment is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this Response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,
Microsoft Corporation

Date: April 25, 2007

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/Kate Marochkina/
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Kate Marochkina
Type or Print Name

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